

Vol. 9– November 2013

H.E.I.R.S. newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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Inside this Issue...

November Meeting: Pioneer Christmas Celebration

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the November issue of the HEIRS newsletter.

Once again HEIRS is busy planning next year's line up of special events, trips and guest speakers. As a volunteer group, we rely on community events and our members for their contributions and feedback to add depth to our newsletters.

Please continue to let us know how we are doing, and for suggestions for potential meeting locations, events and topics. Please help us add to our Family Stories page, by submitting your own brief family info and pictures.

And why not consider some of our great books for sale as unexpected stocking stuffers for the history & genealogy buffs on your lists?

Refer back in our newsletters for book choices or contact us at the HEIRS office. It's never too early to start shopping!

November Meeting

When: Thursday, November 28th, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

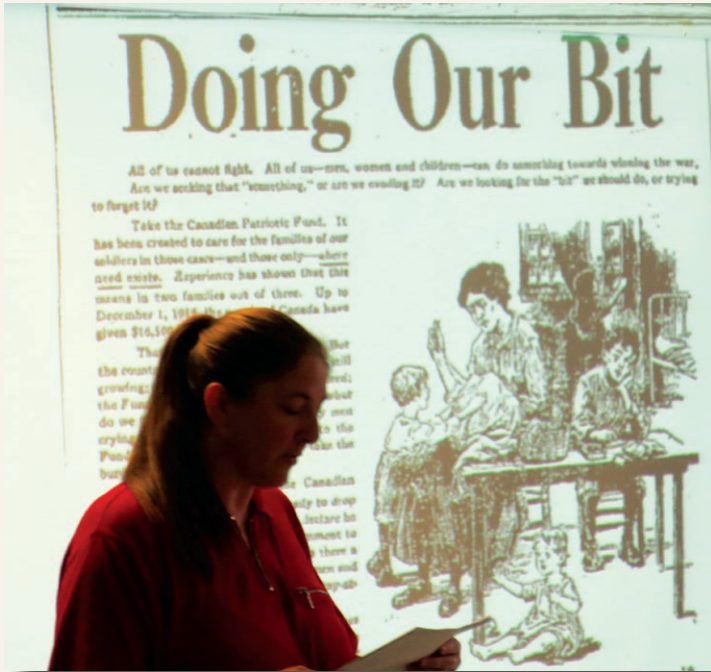
Can you believe this is our last meeting in 2013 already?

It's been a good year for HEIRS, with new members joining us, and public awareness of our group increasing. This last meeting for the year falls on the American Thanksgiving Day, the traditional day to kick off Christmas shopping. It is also as close to Christmas itself as HEIRS gets, so our theme will be on "Old Fashioned Christmases"- how were they celebrated, where did our customs and traditions come from, and a general "look back" at how it once was.

*Then we plan an old time Christmas sing-along, with true Christmas carols, the ones most of us grew up knowing and loving. Please join us, and bring your singing voice..... we will supply the words. **It should be a fun meeting!***

In January 2014, we plan to take advantage of the upcoming Valentine's Day, to look at social events of the pioneers: how they partied, how they courted & sparked, and the ways they found to have a good time in spite of a heavy workload & demanding schedule.





Young adults were encouraged to volunteer for farm labour, and women to establish their own “victory gardens” to grow their own food as much as possible. The less these necessities were consumed here, the more could be sent to “our boys fighting in Europe”.

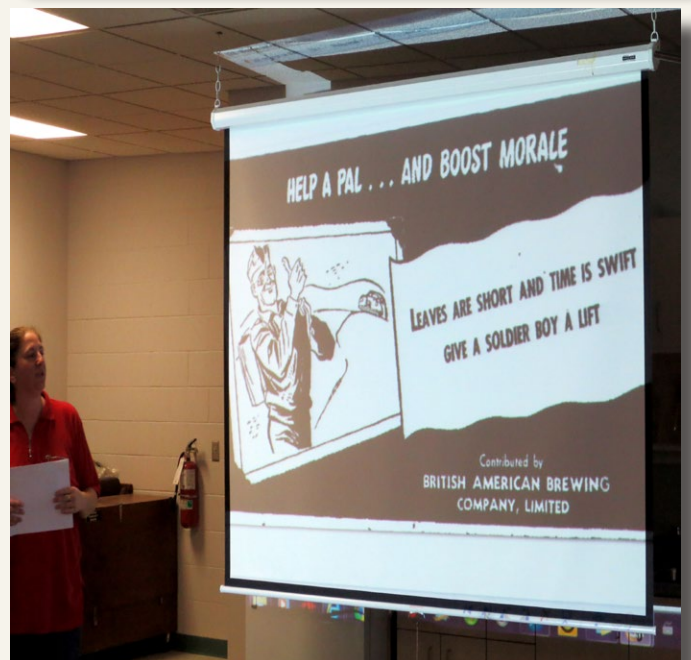
Several HEIRS members contributed their own memories of those days as well, such as Les Hodgkins remembering the harvesting of fields of milkweed plants as their seed pods provided the fluffy material for life jackets & other items. Gerry Pouget and others shared remembrances brought back by Veronica’s presentation. We are now better aware of the many ways in which those people who did not actually fight, were still able to do much to support “our boys”.

On Thursday, October 24, HEIRS met to hear Veronica Brown tell of what life was like here in Essex County while World War 2 raged in Europe for 6 long years. All are familiar with the stories of women going to work in the factories, and on the farms, doing the manual labour which had been the male domain. We learned of women supporting the war effort through knitting groups, which provided socks, mittens, blankets and other items greatly appreciated by the troops.

Wool was provided at cost by several local woolen mills, and mountains of materials were made to be sent overseas.

In addition, there were teas and social events which raised money to support the war effort, as well as the purchasing of victory stamps and bonds, and the drives to collect materials that could be recycled, such as aluminum, and various other metals. Campaigns to re-use, recycle and make do with what one already had were also common.

Of course many things were also rationed, providing limited access for the public: sugar, meat, butter, tea and rubber are but a few of these rationed items. Car tires; for example, were expected to last several years, and were hard to come by.





NAMES OF RETAILERS.

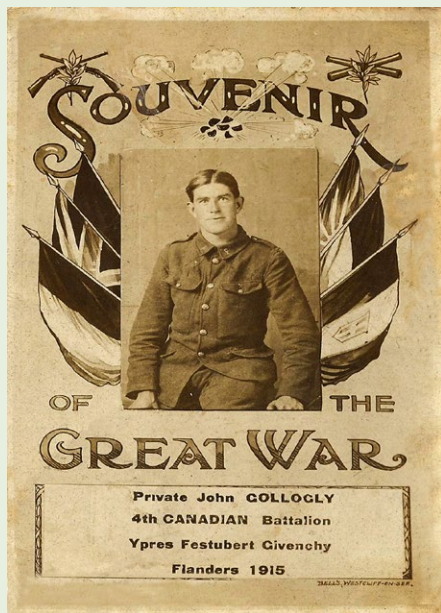
Name and Address of BUTCHER. 1	Name and Address of BACON Retailer. 2
Name and Address of BUTTER & MARGARINE Retailer. 3	Name and Address of LARD Retailer. 4
Name and Address of SUGAR Retailer. 5	Name and Address of TEA Retailer. 6
Name and Address of Retailer for..... 7	Name and Address of Retailer for..... 8

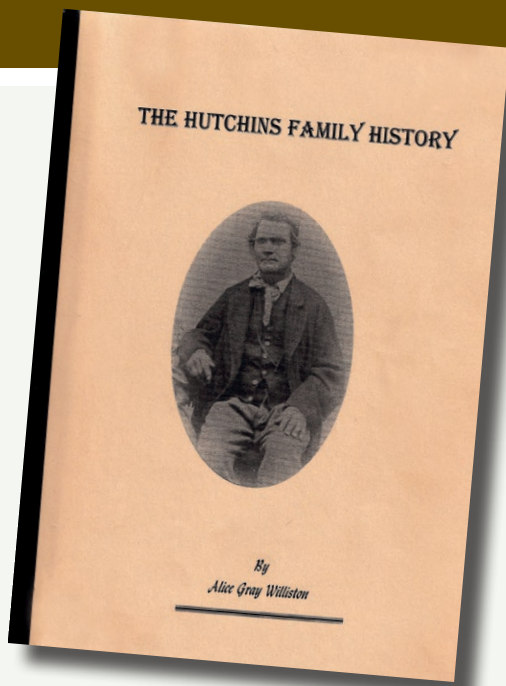
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INSTRUCTIONS—continued.

- Any leaf of coupons may be detached as a whole and used apart from the book, provided that the retailer has entered his name and address in the spaces provided on the back of the leaf. With the consent of the retailer, any leaf of coupons so filled up can be deposited with him, provided that the retailer enters the words "leaf deposited" below his name and address in his space on the back of the cover.
- Coupons already detached from the leaf are invalid.
- The leaves, spaces and counterfoils marked "spare" are for use if other foods are rationed.
- The ration book may only be used while the holder is living in Great Britain, is not drawing Government rations, and is not in an institution (hospital, asylum, workhouse, etc.).
- PERSONS ENTERING INSTITUTIONS.**—If the holder of this book enters an institution, the ration book must be given up to the head of the institution.
- MEMBERS OF H.M. FORCES.**—If the holder joins the Forces, the book must be given up to the Naval, Military or Air Force Authorities. If the holder, being a member of H.M. Forces, is taken on the ration strength of a ship or unit, he must surrender the book to the other commanding officer.
- PERSONS LEAVING GREAT BRITAIN.**—If the holder is leaving Great Britain for any place other than the Channel Islands, Ireland, or the Isle of Man, for more than four weeks, the book must be given up to the Alien's Officer on embarkation. In all other cases when the holder is leaving the country, the book must be sent by him but must be shown to the Alien's Officer or other inspector on demand. It must not be used during absence, unless any particular coupons are valid under a rationing scheme in Ireland, Channel Isles, or the Isle of Man. All coupons not so used during the period of absence must be detached and destroyed.
- DEATH.**—If the holder of this book dies, the book must be immediately given up to the Registrar of Deaths by the person registering the death.
- Any book not given up to the proper authorities in any of the above cases must be sent at once to the nearest Food Office.
- It is a summary offence punishable by fine up to £100 or six months' imprisonment; or both, for any person—
 - to apply for or to hold more than one ration book;
 - to retain a ration book which ought to be given up;
 - to use a ration book for purchases when it may not be used;
 - to use the ration book of another person, except for or on behalf of that person, or to lend or give his own ration book to any other person;
 - to purchase more than the proper ration in respect of any coupon or space;
 - to use coupons for purchases without the leaf to which they belong, or in the wrong periods;
 - to deface a ration book or without authority alter any entry made thereon, or otherwise to contravene any of these instructions or any of the provisions of the Rationing Order, 1918, under which this book is issued.





The Hutchins Family History

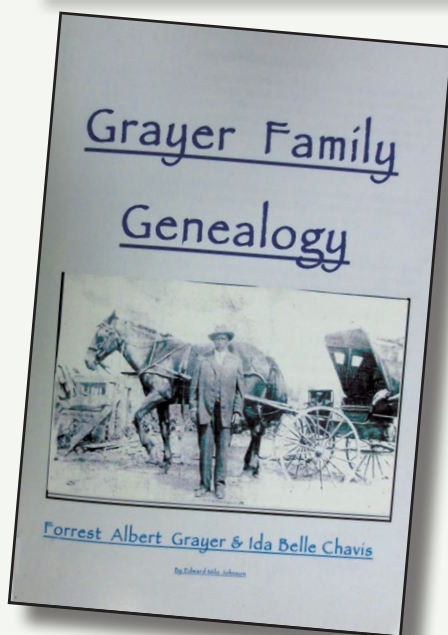
- by Alice Gray Williston

This interesting book can be found in the HEIRS Lending Library. It is an 8 x 11 inch soft cover book of about 90 unnumbered pages, printed in 1998. It contains many photos of various family gatherings at special times, and has several chapters featuring memories and stories told by family members telling their own histories, in an informal style.

One story tells of the McVittie family of Kingsville, descended from a British Home Child, and their romances and tragedies through the years. The last half of the book is a complete family report, giving the generations down from William Hutchins, born 1748 in England.

He married Amy Tamar Dennis, whose family was among the first Quakers to arrive in Niagara from Pennsylvania after the American Revolution. Names such as Brush, Bruner, Cowell, Sherk, Mallott, and Ferriss are found throughout the family listings.

This is an entertaining, easy-to-read book, and the genealogy part is clearly arranged & easy to follow. Any family member will find much here to enjoy and to add to their own genealogical files.



The Grayer Family Genealogy

- by Edward Milo Johnson

This new book tells the story of Forrest Albert Grayer and Ida Belle Chavis, and is the first book in a new series entitled, "Blacks of Colchester South". It was printed in December 2012, & can be found in the HEIRS reference collection. It is a soft cover, 256-page book, with many photos, family charts & some maps.

It begins with the arrival of the first escaped slaves to this area, about 1820, and goes on to outline the growth of early settlements in Essex County, both black only and those where black and white lived together. The stories and charts integrate various families, including Chavis, Harris, Clingman, Hatfield, Green, Mulder, Walls, McCullers and of course Grayers.

Not only are the families summarized & their intermarriages discussed, but there are also stories of some prominent individual members of these families as well. The information is both interesting and well laid out, easy to read & should be a valuable addition to the black history of our region. This book, & others in the upcoming series, should find an appreciative reading audience.



From the HEIRS mailbag...

A recent query by Stephanie LaLonge for information on the Belcher family in Essex County in the mid-1800s, has brought this most interesting reply from another HEIRS member, Fran Woodroffe:

James Belcher shot Daniel Kenyon on a farm in Maidstone Township over a land dispute. Daniel died July 25, 1876, and James Belcher was charged with willful murder. Articles on this event were published in either the Amherstburg Echo or the Essex Record, or possibly both. Fran indicates they are available to view as “newspapers on microfilm” at the Windsor Public Library.

Thanks, Fran. It's always great to see our members helping each other in family searches.

Do you watch the coins that pass through your hands on a daily basis?

I once read that Canada is the only country that has succeeded in adding colour to its coins! There are some special issues you may not have noticed. Recently coins featured both Brock and Tecumseh, some with red maple leaves on them, and others without colour. Some quarters honour our military veterans, some feature a red poppy, others emphasize the fight against breast cancer by showing a pink ribbon. These make great keepsakes for you and your grandchildren, & could be a way to get them interested in the stories and events being honoured on the coins.





**Fun and learning...
as it ought to be!**

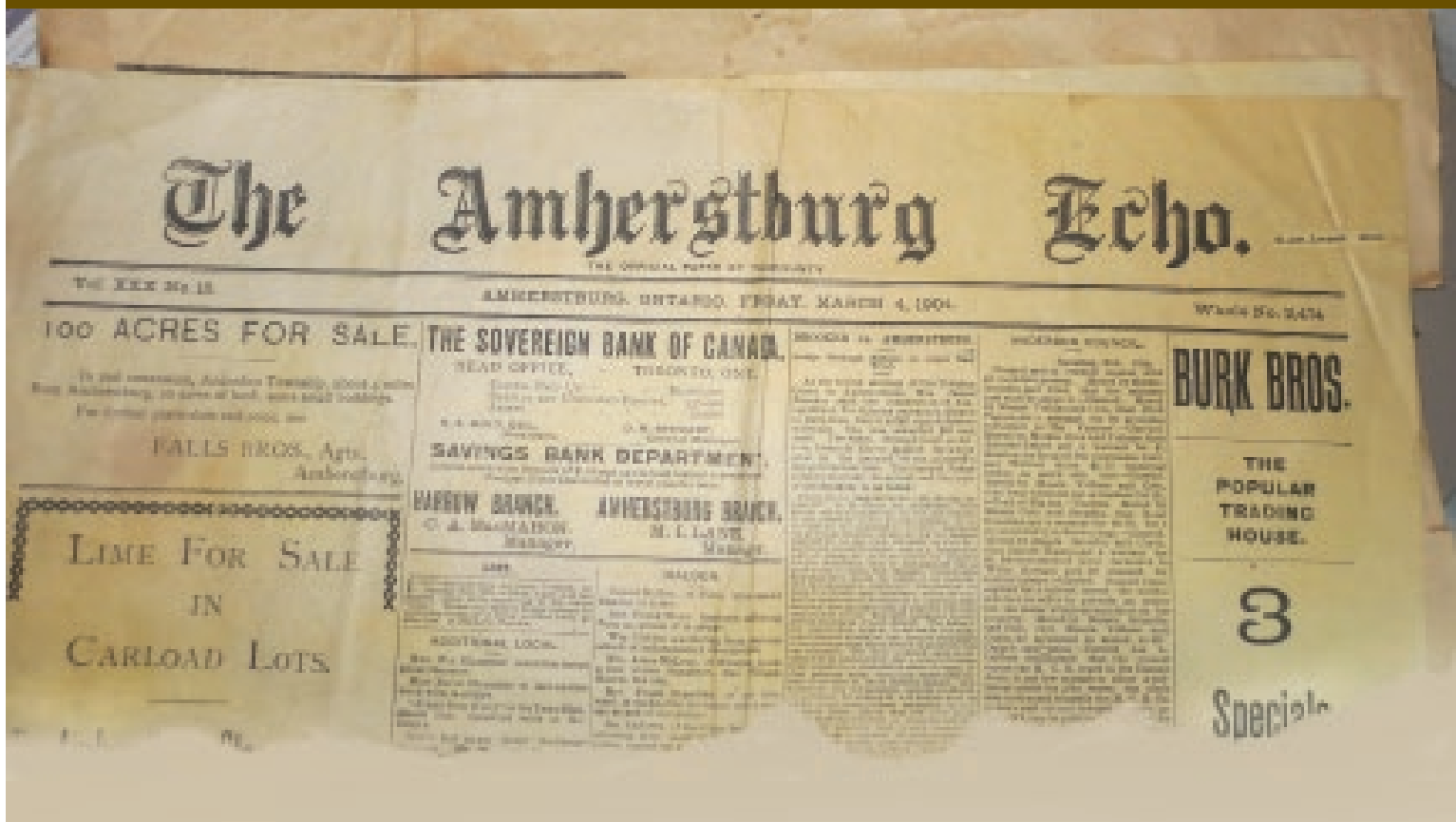
On October 9th, HEIRS again presented our “Skeletons In The Closet” course for those wanting to begin researching their family tree. As part of the ElderCollege series, we met at the Seasons Retirement Home in Amherstburg, with 15 “senior students” eager to learn.

HEIRS Directors Ted Steele, Kathy Langlois, & Pauline Baldwin discussed why and how to get the project started, and some of the local resources available. The many types of information offered by HEIRS were, of course, featured. Then we delved into software programs to store data as it is collected, and how to house all the paperwork that is bound to accumulate, as one goes through the research process.



Part 2 was held on Monday, October 21 at the HEIRS Research Library, where our “students” were able to explore the resources and actually begin to search for their ancestors. It was an easy and relaxed introduction to genealogy. Seven ‘students’ joined HEIRS as members, and are quite interested in continuing the quest to find their own “skeletons or heroes”.





November 9

Southern Ontario was struck by the worst storm in its recorded history. Chickens and sheep were frozen in the farm fields, as hurricane-force winds, wet snow and freezing temperatures combined to shut down cities like Cleveland, Buffalo, Detroit, Toronto and Pittsburgh.

Overnight, 25 to 50 cm (10 to 20 inches) of snow fell, disrupting communications and travel. Waves on the lakes were reported to have reached 30 feet, destroying most vessels in their path. It took nearly a month to compile and list the missing ships and the dead sailors, as the Great Lakes gave up their dead gradually over the next 9 months.

After 100 years, this remains the benchmark by which all other storms are measured. To learn more of this disaster, see HEIRS for the pamphlet, "The Great Storm of November 9, 1913", published in 1913 by the Marsh Collection of Amherstburg, from the files of the Amherstburg Echo.

November 14

Mrs. George Eede, nee Elizabeth Arner, died on Nov. 6, age 95. Her ancestors came to Pennsylvania from Germany, and her Grandfather Jacob Arner, came to Essex County in 1776, escaping from the American army into which he had been pressed. He settled on lot 27, Gosfield, just east of the Arner Town Line, in 1790. His wife was Barbara Arnold.

Her father was Jacob Arner 2, and her brother was Jacob Arner 3, who was the father of Charles T. Arner of Harrow. She and George Eede were married in 1838, and lived in the section of Gosfield, having 12 children.

In 1819, when she was born, the county was practically solid brush: you couldn't buy a broom or sell a dozen eggs short of Amherstburg, a military point, and she travelled by foot or on horseback frequently to that place of trade.

It was common for her husband to walk to Chatham and back. Schooling was almost unknown.

Family History

Family stories with local descendants In Essex County are explored in this section.

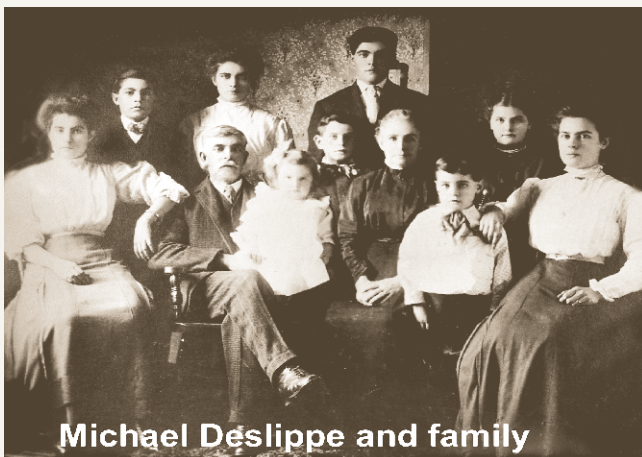
Genealogy of the Deslippe Family

-submitted by Pauline Baldwin, HEIRS Director

Family lore has it that Philippe Deslippe (Dilsy / Disley) was a British soldier at the time of the conquest of New France in 1759, and remained in the LaPrairie area near the present city of Montreal.

He was born in London England in 1743, to Philippe Deslippe and Angela Robeson (Robinson). According to the marriage records, he married in 1768 in the parish of St. Philippe, LaPrairie, Quebec. He married a second time to Marie Charlotte Remond April 3, 1780, in the same parish. Their son, Philippe Bernard Julien Deslippe, was born August 19, 1788, was also born in that parish, and died April 24, 1835, in Gosfield, Essex County, near Cedar Creek.

The Deslippe family, including 8 children, came to the Amherstburg area from Quebec about 1834. They left in the fall, and were 9 weeks travelling by cart to make the trip. A number of other families accompanied them; during the entire trip, they slept inside only 2 nights, and one child broke a limb. It was tended to as best they could, and when they finally reached their destination, it was completely healed. The parents settled in Amherstburg during the time of the 1837 Rebellion.



Michael Deslippe and family

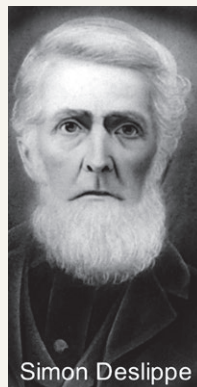
The father was killed while going down Cedar Creek in Gosfield, driving travelers to what is now Kingsville. The horses broke away, and the vehicle upset on him, causing his death.

Simon Deslippe, the youngest son, great grandfather of HEIRS director Pauline Baldwin, purchased lot 6, concession 5 in Colchester South, in 1903. His son Michael, Pauline's grandfather, (1860-1946), inherited the farm and passed it on to his youngest son Nelson, who was the last Deslippe to own this land.

At the time of Simon's death, the Amherstburg Echo obituary stated that there were 55 descendants by the name Deslippe, and children of daughters swelled this number to 125. Daughters of the Deslippe clan married into Deneau, Jubenville and Sinasac families, among others around Amherstburg.

It remains a mystery how Disley/Disly became Deslippe. Did a priest or official confuse the names in parish records? There are a number of families by the name Deslippe in North America, and all can be traced back to Philippe, who arrived in Canada circa 1759.

The Quebec Deslippe families have compiled a book on the families who remained primarily in the Montreal area, and it is available in the Resource Library at HEIRS.



Simon Deslippe

HEIRS welcomes any information that our readers may have on this family, as well as questions or comments.

Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM , Wednesday 9 - Noon. Please call for appointments for other times.

Memberships Due: May 2013 to April 2014: \$20 per person / couple (CDN / U.S.)
Send cheque to: HEIRS, PO Box 53, Harrow ON Canada N0R 1G0

Please include your phone, fax, email, website & names you are now researching.

Non-member user fee for HEIRS Research Library, as of January 2013: \$5 / visit (+ photocopy costs).

HEIRS Newsletter

The HEIRS newsletter is published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from September through June (with the exception of December).

Newsletters via Email

If you currently receive our newsletter by mail and would prefer to receive it by email, simply provide your email address to any one of our newsletter committee members. Not only will you be able to archive the full colour newsletter PDF easily on your computer, it will save HEIRS the extra handling, reproduction and mailing costs.

Special thanks to Greg Harrison at the Computer Centre in Harrow, for his ongoing support of all things technical, setting up our new equipment, and keeping things running smoothly.



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